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INFO RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 TALLINN 000355

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR CA/FPP; DEPT ALSO PASS TO KCC: POSTS FOR FRAUD  
PREVENTION MANAGERS

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [KFRD](#) [VIS](#) [CPAS](#) [CMGT](#) [ASEC](#) [EN](#)  
SUBJECT: FRAUD SUMMARY - TALLINN: SECOND QTR FY2006

REF: A) 06 TALLINN 099; B) 06 TALLINN 109; C) 05 TALLINN 964  
D) 05 STATE 205073

Answers keyed to ref D:

1A. COUNTRY CONDITIONS: Estonia's economy is growing (GDP up 9.8 % i  
boosted by the country's 2004 accession to the EU, among other factor  
unemployment stood at 5.9 % nationally, but was considerably higher i  
The standard of living is often lower than that found in western Euro  
most families, in Estonia both husband and wife are employed. Russia  
organized crime groups exist throughout Estonia and members sometimes  
visas.

Because Estonia was occupied by the Soviet Union for 50 years, a larg  
Russian speakers remains in Estonia. Relations between the Estonian m  
Russian-speaking minority are sometimes strained. As of 2005, 136,00  
Estonia were considered stateless and traveled on Estonian-issued "al  
which do not accord the same travel privileges to EU and Schengen cou  
passports. The number of stateless persons is decreasing due to nat  
89 % of Posts' NIV applicants held Estonian passports, 5 % stateless  
Russian passports, and 1 % passports from some other country. A mach  
Estonian passport has been issued since February 2002, and a photo-di  
1 2005. The alien passport is made to the same standard as the Eston  
and is machine readable and photo-digitized. An E-Passport with biom  
expected in 2007.

The volume of Estonian travel to the United States is low, due largel  
small population. Additionally, there are currently no direct commer  
Estonia and the United States, nor is there a large Estonian-American  
United States. In 2004, according to DHS statistics, there were 8,23  
admissions of Estonian nationals to the United States.

1B. NIV FRAUD: NIV fraud in Estonia centers on attempts to enter the U  
work illegally on a B1/B2 visa. Significant NIV fraud is not detecte  
occasional bogus job letters and bank statements and false U.S. conta  
occasionally presented. Post processed 7,709 NIVs in 2004, with an a  
of 9.28 percent. Visa staff perform regular checks of job letters an  
U.S. contact information provided by applicants. A recent check reve  
unsuccessful NIV applicants all giving the same Brooklyn NY resident  
the U.S. they intend to visit; a CCD check revealed the same point of  
applicant refused in Tashkent in 2003.

1C. IV FRAUD: Tallinn is not an IV issuing post, but it accepts peti  
children of American Citizens. Embassy Helsinki performs all other i  
processing for residents of Estonia. Post does not believe that ther  
marriage fraud, though we have encountered the occasional "not clearl  
petition.

1D. DV FRAUD: Post does not issue diversity visas.

1E. ACS AND PASSPORT FRAUD: Post reports no ACS fraud.

1F. ADOPTION: Post does not issue visas for adopted children but does  
investigations. Post has not detected fraud related to adoptions.

G. ASYLUM AND OTHER DHS FRAUD: Post is not aware of significant DHS fraud. There have been apparent asylum fraud investigation requests involving stateless or Russian passport holder claiming asylum in the dubious claims of persecution in Estonia. Post has not had such a case early 2005. Recently, the use in the United States of an altered I-7 notice by an Estonian national was brought to Post's attention. The media when it was used in connection with an international chess Post Fraud Prevention manager and RSO are investigating whether the same was ever used to gain U.S. immigration benefits.

H. COOPERATION WITH HOST GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES: Post has received excellent cooperation from Estonian authorities, particularly the Ministry, the Citizenship and Migration Board, the Criminal Police, the Police, and the Border Guards. In February 2006, the Ministry of the Post with electronic lists of all passports (Estonian and alien) ever stolen. The lists included 81,307 issued Estonian passports and 119 passports. Post has since kept CLASS updated, forwarding lost and stolen additional 1,399 Estonian passports and xxx stateless passports.

Any Estonian or Estonian-issued alien passport can be checked against Boards' lost and stolen document database at their website:  
<http://www.mig.ee/eng/inquiries/>

I. AREAS OF PARTICULAR CONCERN: Estonia remains a source, transit and destination country for trafficking in persons. Women trafficked from Estonia destined for other European countries, particularly Scandinavian and Estonia hopes to join the Schengen area in 2007. When this occurs, illegal entry into Estonia may increase as it becomes a gateway to onward passport-rest of the EU. At a recent visit to Border Guards at Tallinn airport, 10 percent of airport passenger traffic is to or from Schengen countries. The largest single group of fraudulent document users encountered by the T airport, are Moldovan nationals using Romanian passports, falsified or

J. STAFFING AND TRAINING: The consular section consists of two office consular associate and two FSNs. Both help with fraud prevention work

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Both officers have completed PC541 Fraud Prevention for Consular Management  
WOS